

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
ICAE-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /074 W  
-----091719 271234Z /53

O R 271125Z JUL UI  
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4251

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: LE, US, PEPR, PINS, PINT  
SUBJ: REMARKS OF BACHIR GEMAYEL ON CURRENT SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 188240 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 188109

1. EMBOFF MET WITH BACHIR GEMAYEL AT LATTER'S HOME IN  
ASHRAFIYAH ON JULY 26. REPEATING WHAT HE HAD TOLD DEPARTMENT  
IN REF A WITH SOME EMBELLISHMENTS, BACHIR SAID THE FOLLOWING.

2. THE PHALANGE HAD INFORMATIO THAT THE SYRIANS AND PALES-  
TINIANS HAD REACHED AN ACCORD WHEREBY CONTROL OF WEST BEIRUT  
WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO FATAH, WHILE THE SYRIANS WOULD  
LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT MILITARY OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE MARONITES  
IN EAST BEIRUT BEFORE AUG 5. (BACHIR CHARACTERIZED THIS  
INFORMATION AS VERY GOOD, BUT "NOT 100 PERCENT CONFIRMED.")

3. THE PHALANGE HAD ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN INFORMATION THAT  
MURABITUN WERE REINFORCING THEIR POSITIONS IN THE HOTEL  
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DISTRICT. BACHIR CHARACTERIZED THE MURABITUN AS MERE AGENTS  
OF THE PALESTINIANS AND SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CIVIL  
WAR BETWEEN REAL LEBANESE. (COMMENT: BACHIR, OF COURSE, HAS  
MAINTAINED IN THE PAST THAT THE 1975-76 WAR WAS NOT BETWEEN  
LEBANESE BUT ONLY BETWEEN LEBANESE AND FOREIGNERS.)

4. BACHIR DENIED VIGOROUSLY THAT THE PHALANGE WAS DELIBERATELY PROVOKING SYRIANS AND STRESSED THAT PHALANGE LEADERS HAD NO INTEREST IN HAVING CIVILIAN AREAS SHELLED BY SYRIANS. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME SNIPING AT THE SYRIANS AND THAT "WE ARE PARTIALLY TO BLAME" FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

5. THE ONLY WAY TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION WAS FOR THE SYRIANS TO WITHDRAW FROM EAST BEIRUT, BACHIR SAID, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN. HE SAID CHRISTIANS COULD, HOWEVER, ACCEPT SAUDI AND SUDANESE ADF TROOPS.

6. BACHIR BELIEVED THAT THE SYRIANS WERE HOSTILE TO PRESIDENT SARKIS AND WERE IN FACT TRYING TO BRING HIM DOWN BY THE SHELLING IN HADATH. BACHIR THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE "CHAOS" IF SARKIS RESIGNED, AND THAT AFTERWARDS SYRIANS WOULD TRY TO INSTALL A PUPPET SUCH AS SUALYMAN FRANJIYAH. BACHIR STRESSED THAT HE WAS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO PARTITION.

7. BACHIR SAID THAT HE HAD NEITHER PLANNED NOR AUTHORIZED THE OPERATION AGAINST TONY FRANJIYAH'S HOUSE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE OPERATION WAS ORDERED BY NORTHERNERS, AND THAT THE LATTER HAD NOT KNOWN TONY AND HIS FAMILY WOULD BE HOME WHEN THEY STRUCK. BACHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE ATTACK CAME ONE WEEK AFTER FRANJIYAH'S MEN HAD ASSASSINATED SIX MEMBERS OF THE PHALANGE AND THE 13 YEAR OLD SON OF A PHALANGE MEMBER.

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8. COMMENT: CECIL HOURANI REPORTS HE ASKED BACHIR ON JULY 25 ABOUT IHDIN OPERATION, AND BACHIR SAID KILLING OF TONY FRANJIYAH'S WIFE AND DAUGHTER HAD BEEN ACCIDENT. BACHIR NOTED THAT HIS OWN DAUGHTER HAD BEEN BORN THE DAY OF THE MASSACRE AND ASKED HOW ANYONE COULD THINK HE WOULD WANT TO EXPOSE THEM TO THREAT OF VENGEANCE FROM ZGHORTA. BACHIR DID NOT SAY, HOWEVER, THAT KILLING OF TONY WAS ACCIDENT AND LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION WITH HOURANI THAT IT WAS DELIBERATE. BACHIR'S STORY THAT HE NEITHER PLANNED NOR AUTHORIZED RAID DOES NOT HOLD WATER. IF THAT WERE CASE, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE MADE STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT TO AVOID FRANJIYAH-GEMAYEL VENDETTA. END COMMENT.

9. BACHIR WAS ECSTATIC ABOUT US STATEMENT ON JULY 25 (REF B). HE CLAIMED THEATRICALY THAT IT WAS FIRST FRIENDLY STATEMENT STATE DEPARTMENT HAD EVER MADE ON LEBANON. HE REMARKED THAT THE LEBANESE HAD BEGUN TO MOUNT A SUCCESSFUL LOBBYING EFFORT IN THE UNITED STATES WITH CONGRESS, THE CHURCHES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

10. IN SUM, HOWEVER, BACHIR SEEMED VERY GLOOMY. HE ASSERTED

THAT THERE WOULD SOON BE DECISIVE BATTLE WHICH WOULD DETERMINE  
THE ULTIMATE FATE OF LEBANON. PARKER

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NNN

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